If this was your last year on Earth how would you spend it? Unfortunately for those among us, including me, who rather enjoy living, the doomsday predictions for this December 21 have made this question all too relevant. To quote the great band R.E.M, it’s the end of the world as we know it.

Although a large number of people scoff at any mention of the end of the world, the December 21 prediction comes from a reliable source that deserves some attention, the Mayan calendar. The Mayans calculated the length of the lunar cycle to nearly exactly the same value that is used today, and if they were smart enough to determine that accurately, any other findings in their calendar should also be given credibility.

The Mayan calendar is divided into time periods called b’ak’tuns, and the end of 2012 coincides with the end of the thirteenth b’ak’tun. This is significant because it has been long believed that at the end of the thirteenth b’ak’tun an event of huge significance will occur, possibly the apocalypse.

Another apocalyptic theory for the coming year involves Nibiru, an immense space rock, which is scheduled to either pass or collide with the Earth this year. Many people have dismissed this idea, since Nibiru was initially supposed to collide with Earth in 2003, but it would be unwise to completely ignore this threat. Space is such a distant, mysterious place, no one on Earth can claim to have total knowledge of what will or will not happen there.

Various other astronomical theories predict the end of the world this year, but their complexity would make them near impossible to describe in brevity. The point is that numerous sources indicate that the world will end this year, and odds are at least one of them will prove to be true.

The wiser students at Charlotte Catholic have decided to give heed to 2012 warnings, although many of them differ in their predictions for how the apocalypse will actually transpire. For example, junior Michael Parra has an unscientific opinion on the end of the world.

“I would say that the world is going to end because of an alien invasion,” he said.

While an alien invasion is not predicted by scientists or many other people, Parra’s willingness to acknowledge that the world probably will end this year is refreshing. It is time for humans to stop believing themselves to be invincible, and to realize that at some point, be it in 2012 or in 3012, the world will end. Since there are more reasons to believe that the year 2012 will be our last than there have been in any year in recent memory, we should accept our fate and prepare for the end.